

^

## Constantine

ceived from his captors was that they allowed him » choose his own way of relieving them of his presence. He opened his veins. So gentle a death those violent times was considered "good." \* This victory over Severus, gained with such astonishing ease, speaks well for the popularity of Maximian with his old soldiers. Galerius prepared

> to avenge the defeat and murder of his friend and invaded Italy at the head of a large army. He

>o, like Severus, marched down the peninsula, but

5 got no nearer to Rome than Narnia, sixty miles

^stant. There he halted, despite the fact that no

^position was being offered to his advance. Why ?

he reason is undoubtedly to be found in the at-

titude of Constantine, who had mobilised his army

Don the Gallic frontier and was waiting on events,

here was no love lost between Constantine and

•alerius. If Constantine crossed the Alps and

>llowed down on the track of Galerius, the latter

ould find himself between two fires.

Galerius is

suggested by Zosimus as being suspicious of the

>yalty of his troops ; it is more probable that he

ecided to retreat as soon as he heard that Constan-

ne had thrown in his lot with Maximian and

Maxentius. Maximian had been sedulously trying

> to secure alliances for himself and his son. He had

made overtures to the recluse of Salona. But

Diocletian had turned a deaf ear.

Even if he had

ankered after power again, he would

hardly have  
eclared himself in opposition to the  
ruler of Illyria,

\* *Nihil aliud infetramt nisi bonam mortem.*—DC  
Mort, Av\<r.,